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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. APPLE INDUSTRY AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO**

Ambassador Barshefsky issued the following statement regarding the agreement that was reached this morning by the U.S. apple industry and the Government of Mexico:

“We are pleased that our industry has concluded an agreement with Mexico’s Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development (SECOFI) that will immediately reopen the Mexican market - our largest export market for apples - to U.S. apple exports. We applaud the U.S. industry’s effort and welcome the results it reached with SECOFI to resolve this matter.”

The Administration has been engaged in a coordinated effort with the U.S. apple industry to reopen the Mexican apple market for red and golden delicious apples since SECOFI’s unwarranted use of “best information available” to impose provisional antidumping measures of 101.1 percent on September 1, 1997. This matter has been of serious concern to Members of Congress and USTR had urged a comprehensive resolution of the issues in the case. We are pleased that the U.S. apple industry has succeeded in its efforts to negotiate a suspension agreement, and that the matter has now been resolved. This agreement should provide a predictable setting for U.S. apples to once again enter the Mexican market.